

**CITY OF KANKAKEE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SUMMARY OF MINUTES  
MONDAY, AUGUST 17TH, 2020  
7:00 P.M.**

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** I will call the meeting to order. Meetings are accessible to the public through Comcast Channel 4, City of Kankakee YouTube Channel and the City of Kankakee Website. We will start the meeting with a prayer by Reverend Ed Kannapel from Gift of God Street Church and move on to the Pledge of Allegiance led by the City Council. Item 4 on the Agenda, Public Comments. Please give your name and direct your comments to the Mayor. Comments are limited to five minutes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**STEVEN J. HUNTER:**

Thank you, Mayor and City Council, just a couple more comments I knew I wouldn't be able to finish initially. What I have a concern about is the cutting of the staff in the Clerk's Office 50% the first African Americans Citywide Elected Official office was cut 50%. However, you hired an individual over in CDA who hails from Michigan through Olivet. I'm wondering if she knows neighborhoods like the individual you laid off in the Clerk's Office, who was a property owner and tax payer. Additionally, maintain that the staffing level in Code Enforcement is in dire need. I can't believe that you cut that particular staffing the way you did. We need the monitoring or housing the neighborhoods are in disrepair. We try to eradicate slum and by cutting code that's going to interfere with that particular mission of the city. No CSO's in the Police Department. For those of you who don't know that means on the council, the Community Service Officers are worth their weight in gold. They provided the necessary services for all neighborhoods and the city. Also, there was no follow up regarding the housing summit that Alderman O'Brien initiated. I think we need to revisit that as well too. Some time ago, my last point, I asked Mayor Nina Epstein to paint the west wall of the old bowling alley. Now that's in disrepair and I suggested to you guys earlier, why couldn't we paint some murals on that particular wall, as well as working Olivet, KCC and the art departments to do some sort of statues or some kind of artwork on that vacant

property. So, when you come to town, that's what you see. And I was hoping that the city will take some initiative to address those particular issues. Thank you.

### **ROLL CALL**

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you Mr. Hunter. Okay, we will move on to Item 5, Roll Call of the City Council.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **PRESENT:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Present (0) Absent

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Item B Department Heads.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **PRESENT:** Kosman, Schuldt, Kubal, Odelson, Schiel, Piggush, Nelson, Schmitz, Ellexson, Hoffman, Brewer-Watson.

**MAYOR WELLS ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Item 6A Minutes from Monday July 20th, 2020. May I have a motion to approve the minutes?

**ALD OSENGA:** So move.

**ALD MALONE MARSHALL:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderwoman Malone Marshall. Any edits to the minutes? Hearing none, Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Item 6B Minutes from Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. May I have a motion to approve the minutes?

**ALD OSENGA:** So move.

**ALD MALONE MARSHALL:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by

Aldерwoman Malone Marshall. Any edits to the minutes?  
Hearing none, Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**COUNCIL:** Aye.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Minutes are approved. Item 7 Petitions, we have none.  
Moving on to Item 8A Communications.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**ITEM 8A:** A Community Cup Church of the Nazarene is Requesting Closure of the Kankakee Farmers Market, Parking Lot in the Gazebo to Host the ".5K Victory Stroll" On Sunday, August 23, 2020, from 1:00 P.M. until 3:00 P.M.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to approve?

**ALD TETTER:** So move.

**ALD PRUDE:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Tetter and Seconded by Alderman Prude. Any discussion on that item? Hearing none,  
Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving on to Item 9A Standing Committee Reports.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ITEM 9A:** Building & Code – Aldерwoman Malone Marshall  
The meeting for Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 did not have a quorum therefore we could not hold this meeting.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Moving on to Item 10 Reports of Officers.  
May I have a motion to approve?

**ALD FAFORD:** I move that we approve the report of officers, place the money in the in the proper accounts and pay the bills in the amount of \$355,460.48.

**ALD LEWIS:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion made by Alderman Faford and Seconded by Alderwoman Lewis. Any discussion? Alderman Osenga?

**ALD OSENGA:** Check #76713 in the amount of \$2,829.00?

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** I believe that is for police installation to new squads. Elizabeth, I will double check with you?

**ELIZABETH KUBAL:** Yes, thank you. Mayor that's correct.

**ALD OSENGA:** Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Any other discussion? Hearing none, Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien (*abstain on check #'s 76733 and 76747*), Gall (*abstain on check #'s 76750, 3029, 1199 and 1202*), Malone Marshall, Prude  
**NAYS:** Tall, Crawford  
(12) Ayes (2) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Item 11 Unfinished Business we have none. Moving on to Item 12A.

## NEW BUSINESS

**ITEM 12A:** Ordinance Amending Chapter 32, Section Entitled "Handicapped Parking" of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee Rescinding Ordinance. NO. 1991-13, Establishing a Handicapped Parking at 379 South Chicago Avenue (*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*).

**ITEM 12B:** Ordinance Amending Chapter 32, Section 231 Entitled "Handicapped Parking" of the Municipal Code of the

City of Kankakee Rescinding Ordinance. NO. 1996-79, Establishing a “Handicapped Parking” at 379 South Chicago Avenue (*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*).

**ITEM 12C:** Ordinance Amending Chapter 32 Section 115, Entitled Specific Yield Right of Way Intersection Established at the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee Rescinding Ordinance. NO 1973-32 Yield Signs Established at the Intersection of Hickory Street in South Greenwood Avenue (*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*).

**ITEM 12D:** Ordinance Amending Chapter 32 Section 115 Entitled Specific “Yield Right of Way” Intersection, Established of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee Rescinding Ordinance NO. 1978-14, Yield Signs Established at the Intersection of East Hickory Street and South Chicago Avenue (*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*).

**ITEM 12E:** Ordinance Amending Chapter 32 Section 115 Entitled Specific “Yield Right of Way” Intersection Established of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee Rescinding Ordinance NO. 1973-30, Yield Signs Established at the Intersection of East Bourbonnais Street, and South Chicago Avenue (*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*).

**ITEM 12F:** Ordinance Amending 32, Section 238 of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee, Illinois, Establishing a Two Way Stop Intersection Running East and West: East Hickory Street and South Greenwood Avenue (*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*).

**ITEM 12G:** Ordinance Amending Chapter 32, Section 238 of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee, Illinois, Establishing a Two Way Stop Intersection Running East and West: East Hickory Street and South Chicago Avenue (*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*).

**ITEM 12H:** Ordinance Amending Chapter 32, Section 238 of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee Illinois, Establishing a Two Way Stop Intersection Running East and West Bourbonnais street in South Chicago Avenue (*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*).

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** If there are no objections, I would like to combine

Items 12A through 12H. May I have a motion to suspend the rules that will interfere with the passage of the ordinances?

**ALD TETTER:**

I move that we combine 12A through 12H and suspend the rules that interfere with the passing of these ordinances.

**ALD GALL:**

Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Tetters and Seconded by Alderwoman Gall. Any discussion on these items? Alderman Osenga?

**ALD OSENGA:**

I appreciate the fact that we want to make things safer growth and yield signs. But I have a four way stop right by my house when they blow through that every day. So, I think we're kind of spinning our wheels by doing this.

**NEIL PIGGUSH:**

The traffic committee met on August 10<sup>th</sup>, and there was Numerous requests put in. We evaluated each location based on traffic data. There were some that we did not implement traffic control devices on even though the traffic data, possibly justified in some of the accidents were older and we've been coming into newer traffic control devices around locations that were being requested so we wanted to wait and see how those traffic control devices, impact the surrounding intersections. The ones that we're establishing on Chicago, there were quite a few intersection accidents within the last five years. We didn't want to put on Chicago. So, we thought the best thing to do would be to convert to the East/West yields to East/West stops, with only three blocks from Station and River. So, it didn't seem like it made sense to do anything on Chicago itself.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Okay thank you. And we are aware Alderman Osenga of your concerns and discuss that as well, and talk to the chief about the need for enforcement to make sure to track the unit is there. D.C. Bond is actually participated in this meeting and he's in the fourth ward and gave some feedback as well about a couple of places on the west side of town where people are blowing through the stop signs. So, chief is aware and we'll have a traffic unit address that. So, we have a motion and a second. Any other discussion? Roll Call.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter,

**ALD BROWN:** Mayor, can I clear up something? Where we suspending the rules?

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Alderman Tetter made the motion to suspend the rules and Alderwoman Gall made the second.

**ALD BROWN:** Okay, there is no discussion on suspending the rules so...

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** There's what?

**ALD BROWN:** There is no discussion on the suspension of the rules.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Okay, thank you.

**ALD BROWN:** (*inaudible*)

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Okay...okay. Roll Call.

**ALD BROWN:** I vote yes on suspending the rules.

**CLERK DUMAS:** Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude (14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. May I have a motion to place the ordinances on final passage? ordinance on final passage?

**ALD TETTER:** I so move.

**ALD GALL:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Tetter and Seconded by Alderwoman Gall. Any discussion on this item? Hearing none, Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude (14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving on to Item 12I.

**ITEM 12I:** Ordinance Regarding Face Coverings to Preserve and Protect Residents (*1<sup>st</sup> Reading*).

**BURT ODELSON:**

This is a model ordinance drafted by the Illinois Municipal League pursuant to the General Assembly's joint committee and administrative rules, jaycar, which approved the IDPH emergency rulemaking regarding the use of face coverings. The ordinance again is drafted by the IML. If the municipalities do not wish to have forced the rulemaking the county sheriff, the local public health department or IDPH may enforce the rule. So, again we just follow the IML's recommendation. Our department doesn't have to enforce it. It can be enforced by any of the other agencies pursuant to the executive order also approved by the government.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** I just wanted to bring to your attention. There was a press release, put out by the health department. I did attach it in my updates to the city council and department heads on Friday, a wedding that took place, we know that 11, people have been confirmed through COVID-19. And some of those individuals are not cooperating with the health department contact tracing. So, again, just a reminder that this is very serious COVID-19 and working with everything we can to keep people safe. If you have been exposed. You need to get tested and, if necessary quarantine if needed. This is on first reading, I would actually be interested in any feedback from you all, you can email me your feedback. I would appreciate that regarding this ordinance. Okay, moving on to Item 12J.

**ITEM 12J:**

Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2020 and ending April 30, 2021  
(*Final Reading for Adoption*).

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to approve

**ALD BROWN:**

I make a motion that we adopt the Annual Budget ordinance as presented.

**ALD SWANSON:**

Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Brown and Seconded by Alderwoman Swanson. Any discussion? Alderman Tall?

**ALD TALL:**

Yes, Mayor. I don't believe we have a first reading of this? At the last meeting it was on the agenda. There was a



motion to suspend the rules that were defeated. There was never a motion to place it on first reading and take a vote.

**BURT ODELSON:** Being on agenda itself and going before the City Council is a first reading, whether it has the words first reading or not is immaterial. It's on the agenda and Council doesn't suspend the rules, it is a first reading.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Any other discussion? Alderman Tall

**ALD TALL:** Yes, can you send us that ruling so that we can see that in writing?

**BURT ODELSON:** Sure.

**ALD TALL:** Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Alderman O'Brien?

**ALD O'BRIEN:** Thank you Mayor, I have a few comments regarding the budget. First, I want to know for the record despite the concerns and issues raised at our July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, legally, we could not have passed the budget that night despite folks that were interested in doing that because we didn't publish public notice, and we didn't provide for a public hearing. We legally could not have. I think that's important to know that in the rush to get this budget approved on July 20<sup>th</sup>, we didn't comply with the law, so that's just important that was not addressed in the public hearing but, I think it needs to be part of the record. It's an opportunity for us to recognize where we fell short and hopefully improve in the future. I also want to mention, you may recall, I suggested that we not approve this budget until we get April, May, and June sales tax numbers, as well as, to see how many payments are made in terms of the second installment of the property tax payments. If we wait until our next council meeting, we'll have that information. Currently we have the April and May sales tax results, we can see a trend now and it's not a good trend year over year April 2020, the sales tax results to the city fell 13%. So, our sales tax receipts in April of 2020 were 12.9% less than April 2019, May was worse and that's a downward trend is in May of 2020 our sales tax receipts were 16.6% less than May of 2019. So, we don't know, what we don't know for June but hopefully that trend reverses itself. Again, I believe the prudent response is to wait and have that data, before we

make this decision. As I said, regarding property taxes the county accessor has said we are basically on pace where we were last year so good for the first installment payments, but we don't know is whether that will continue for the second installment. We hope it does but we don't know. I also want to address the issue that this is a balanced budget. And it's a balanced budget on paper with a small surplus as we know. But it's especially important this year, in the COVID environment that we have larger surplus, and I think information shared in the last budget committee meeting by the administration is a great example of that. So not this year's budget but last year. The information shared with the budget committee by the comptroller the city of Kankakee FYI 20 additional information, actual unaudited handout that Elizabeth prepared at the last meeting. On page two, the summary sends us back to last year's budget we passed a budget that has a small surplus, a little bigger than this year, last year's budget surplus was \$45,374 not much but it's a surplus, and all things considered last year was a relatively good year a normal year. We certainly didn't have things like COVID but ultimately, the unaudited financials show that we did have a surplus of \$45,000 at the end of the year and we had a loss. We lost, \$247,424.34. The balanced budget on paper, when we approved it ended up being a loss of almost \$250,000 in a good year. ended up being a loss of \$250,000 in a good year. So my concern is, what happens to COVID Here we approve about a budget that's balanced on paper, with a surplus of \$30,000, what's that going to be this time next year, a loss of 500,000, I hope not, I sure hope not, but that's my point is, let's wait and see what the sales tax revenue show for June for maybe July, let's see what the property tax revenue show and if we have to make cuts let's make the cuts. Because when we don't do that last year that came out of our very limited cash reserves, we don't have a lot of cash on hand. But we had to tap into that because we hadn't had enough of a surplus in our budget in a good in a good year a normal year. So that's where this concern is coming from. There's no other agenda behind it, so looking forward so what do we do, I think what we do here the appropriate step is to table this until our next meeting where we have at least the June sales tax numbers, we have at least the second installment of the property tax data. And we're able to see if approving us budget as presented with a small surplus is appropriate. If not, then we still have time to make the additional adjustments. I just can't get

comfortable with knowing what happened last year when we had roughly a similar sized budget surplus and ended up losing \$250,000 I shudder to think what's going to happen a year from now, when we realized we may well exhaust all of our cash reserves in the meantime. So, for that reason I ask you all to consider voting to table this until our next meeting. I also think it's important to note that the budget committee when we met last week recommended postponing action on the budget until we had the June sales tax information as well as the second installment of the property tax information. Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you, Alderman O'Brien. So, there's a couple of things I'm going to give Elizabeth the floor because I think there are a couple of things that were stated incorrectly.

**ELIZABETH KUBAL:**

Thank you, Mayor. I'm not really for sure exactly that piece of it. But when I did go through and checked out those percentages Chairman O'Brien, regarding the sales tax that would have been collected in April and May, I went ahead and looked at May very closely since it was a little bit worse of a discrepancy and as we all know, sales tax does vary any year from year to year without COVID with COVID it always varies. So, applying the way that I went about this estimate was a two-prong approach, as you all know we've talked about it several times, we have the trend average of the sales tax reduction that I've put into play and we also have the COVID average, and in just the month of May, because that is like you said, Chairman all we have right now, for this fiscal year, obviously we have other numbers for other months with COVID but the only one for this fiscal year that I wanted to compare against, when you actually, take the average of the trend average which comes out to be \$19,115 per month on the regular sales tax, and \$38,695 per month on the Home Rule sales tax, apply that in the COVID average with the second part of the prong approach, which I did 40,000 for regular these are reductions of course, and \$84,000 for the first month of COVID for home rule when those are all applied with the actual loss I believe from 2019 to 2020, the loss in May was \$50,073 difference or the, the difference I should say it's not a loss because it varies so the difference. And when you apply what my estimate was right now for regular we have for just the month of May, \$9,115 to apply toward another month that may come in short, based off the

numbers that I did. And then the Home Rule side part that budgeted. That was to be applied was \$122,695. Actually, the difference for May was \$71,004 99. So, then that's \$51,001 96 budgeted number not, you know, the budgeted number to apply to other months so looking at it that way, I'm a real-numbers, numbers person and percentages. I don't think you know all those certainly downward trending. I think sometimes you have to actually look at the numbers and the numbers that were applied with the approach that I use and that's what I did there so I felt like May was budgeted well most certainly and I feel good still about the recommendations that I've made. The only other piece of information I would like to share is I went back and looked at some of the previous budgets and out of the last seven, I've only been around for seven budgets. So, the first one I did was fiscal 15. And when you go back to those budgets of those budgets, what was the budget surplus for those seven budgets to different administrations, including the one that's proposed here tonight. There has been five of those with surpluses less than \$50,000 and of course tonight's would be one of those, most definitely. Interestingly enough, prior to tonight to were the previous administration to were this administration. There's two also then that leaves because obviously five plus two seven. There are two budgets, one in fiscal 16, and one in fiscal 19 that had surpluses around \$100,000. So certainly, I understand the COVID concerns, I think I was responsible in that budgeting of the COVID concerns. No one has a crystal ball. I believe my estimates are strong. I stand by those estimates, and I do think that we have trended here accordingly. Also, I appreciate greatly Chairman you using those words that we talked about unaudited and just the other words you used, I can't think right now, but anyway just making sure those are unaudited because we will have so many adjustments still when we get through with the audit that possibly could change those numbers as they have in past years so I do greatly appreciate you saying it that way.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** So other than O'Brian made a motion to table.

**ALD O'BRIEN:** I just recommended, I did not make a motion.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** So, we have a motion. Any other discussion?  
Roll Call.

**ALD CURTIS:** Mayor, may I?

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Yes, I'm sorry I'm Curtis you have a floor.

**ALD CURTIS:** Thank you. I just, I just want to make a comment I just, again, you mentioned earlier about coming up with income streams and that is a very difficult situation. I just think that we need to look at some of the expense line items where we could create a larger surplus. Just a couple items. We've been missing the mark on legal and consulting. We have budgeted \$100,000 before for consulting I think we're averaging about \$155,000. There can be about \$50,000 and when legal, we're averaging roughly \$395,000 to \$400,000 the past two years, which is about 25 to 30 percent more than we were spending before. Again, if we can just rein in the expenses. When we can have a larger surplus going into the *(inaudible)* can that be a way that we can have a larger surplus versus bringing in additional income and just controlling expenses. Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you, Elizabeth Did you have anything there?

**ELIZABETH KUBAL:** I don't other than just to always remind folks that we can continue to have this conversation. Just because you pass a budget and there is thinking that we need to modify along the way you don't even have to modify a budget to reduce your spending. So, I think that that's a conversation that we could always continue to have. I would always be open to that conversation, especially depending on how those numbers end up coming in as time goes along and what we all still sitting here today don't even know yet. We all really have no idea what the next you know 12 to, I would even say 18 months are going to look like so. Thank you

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Okay, thank you. Roll Call.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Cobbs, Lewis, Swanson, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
**NAYS:** Curtis *(via phone)*, Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien  
(8) Ayes (6) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving on to Item 12K.

**ITEM 12K:** Recommendation to Approve the Grant Agreement Between the State of Illinois Department of Natural

Resources and the City of Kankakee for the Kankakee River Walk West Acquisition.

**NEIL PIGGUSH:**

Thank you Mayor, this is the grant application that was announced that the city successful back in February, due to COVID and the number of other grant programs that the state has been issuing as a result of COVID this processing of these agreements has taken a lot longer than anticipated so we have before you the grant agreement between the city Kankakee and the Department of Natural Resources for land acquisition on the West Riverwalk.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to approve?

**ALD LEWIS:**

I so move.

**ALD TETTER:**

Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderwoman Lewis and Seconded by Alderman Tetter. Any discussion on this item? Hearing none, Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:**

**AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving on to Item 12L.

**ITEM 12L:**

Recommendation to Award Bid in the Amount of \$232,572.35 to Lion Construction 1, LLC., for the Illinois Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Project on Court Street, PEI JOB NO. 18133.

**NEIL PIGGUSH:**

Thank you Mayor this was a state letting held on by. On July 31<sup>st</sup> which was a Friday, for the Safe Routes to School project in front of King. There were six bidders on the project that range anywhere from \$317,000 down to \$232,000. You're not officially awarding this contract merely accepting the bid results as presented since this is a state letting, but we do have to write them a letter from the city, stating that the city accepts the bid results as presented.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** All right, may I have a motion to approve?

**ALD TETTER:** I move that we approve the awarded bid in the amount of \$232,572.35 to Lion Construction.

**ALD COBBS:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Tetter and Seconded by Alderman Cobbs. Any discussion on this item?

**ALD OSENGA:** Yeah, Neil. I've never heard of this company Lion Construction I've been around here my whole life. Do you know them? I don't know anything about them

**NEIL PIGGUSH:** Yeah, so they've been around a little while they've been mainly as other minority business contractors so they've mainly been a subcontractor for a lot of the larger construction companies in the area. So, they do their own concrete and excavation and I've never worked on a project with them personally but, they're IDOT pre-qualified and all the required categories for this contract.

**ALD CRAWFORD:** Who were there any local bidders on this project?

**NEIL PIGGUSH:** When you say local, as far as, within the city?

**ALD CRAWFORD:** Kankakee County.

**NEIL PIGGUSH:** Lion is from Kankakee County. They're from Hopkins Pembroke Township. Kankakee Valley Construction and R&R we're also bidders on this project and I think that everyone else was outside of the county. Scanlon excavating and Concrete was also another bidder.

**ALD CRAWFORD:** Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Any other discussion. Okay, Roll Call please.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

## **MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Item 12M Appointments we have none. Moving on to Motions and Resolutions. In accordance with the ordinance previously approved during the July



2020 City Council meeting we wanted to confirm amounts and give council time to review the capital list and propose any alternatives. I received one response from a city council member, everyone else indicated that they had consensus, or there was a summary from I think it was the budget committee meeting the special meeting on July 27 where there was no quorum. Alderman O'Brien did send a consensus about that. Three members were present at the meeting one from the phone which was Alderman Curtis.

**ITEM 13A:**

At the July 20, 2020 Council Meeting the City Adopted Ordinance NO. 2020-75. Motion to Approve General Obligation Bonds of the City of Kankakee in an Amount Not to Exceed \$10,500,000 for the Project ("The Project Bonds"), and Bonds in an Amount To Not Exceed \$16,350,000 for the Refunding (The Refunding Bonds in an Aggregate Principal Amount Not To Exceed \$26,850,000.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to approve?

**ALD BROWN:** I so move.

**ALD TETTER:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Brown and Seconded by Alderman Tetter. Any discussion on this item?

**BURT ODELSON:** Bob Vail from Bernardi Securities, could not be present tonight because he's in Waukegan on bonds, they're approving, but he sent me a recap to report to the City Council for the city's geo bonds we are currently projecting a conservative rate of 2.75%. This is based on no rating and insured bonds, the bonds won't be mature in 16 years, if we are able to secure an investment grade bond rating, this rate will go down to 2%, to 2.5%. Comparatively last summer, If we asked the bonds last summer, this rate would have been near 4%, with a similar structure and rating. And this simple interest rates have never been lower and there remains an extremely high demand for municipal bonds, even with these historically low rates, a big unknown, that may impact interest rates relate related to the city's bonds, is the State of Illinois and its credit rating stage rating could be impacted due to the COVID Pandemic. It could potentially fall below investment grade. If this happens, it will likely impact bond insurers that lie in the State of Illinois. Recent Illinois bond issues which Bernardi



Securities have under written within the past month that were nonrated or A are as follows... City of Carbondale, was a BBB+ rating insured with a nine-year maturity, the net interest rate was 1.61%, that was yesterday. City of Harvard A+ rating insured 20-year maturity, final net rate of 2.15% that was last week. Richton Park, which is where taxable bonds, nonrated insured, a 20-year maturity. Final rate of 3.4, and that was three weeks ago, and Mill Creek Water District in Quincy, A rated insured 9-year maturity file a rate of 1.40% priced three weeks ago. I have spent a vast majority of my time in the last six weeks doing bond calls for the municipalities and school districts that we represent. I was at two more calls today in different municipalities. Because of that high demand. As Mr. Vail has said in his memo to you. It is very interesting that we have such a high demand with such a low interest rate. The Bond could fall out depending on COVID depending on the state of Illinois, his concern was the uncertainty as to what could happen tomorrow what could happen next month. In the State of Illinois. That's my report Mayor.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Any discussion? Alderman Crawford?

**ALD CRAWFORD:** With the bonds, are we going to be okay to go out and bond out without having our audits done yet, or are we on time schedule with our audit to work with the bonds?

**BURT ODELSON:** I understand the, actually we had the rough draft and all the numbers have been plugged into the bond's waiting for the final draft, which I'm told won't vary much, as far as, the numbers, and I think and Elizabeth can correct me if I'm wrong I think the final draft will be presented August 24, if I'm correct.

**ELIZABETH KUBAL:** You're absolutely correct. August 24th we'll be presenting the bound copy at the special budget committee meeting we're having at 5:30 P.M.

**BURT ODELSON:** To further answer Alderman Crawford, we're all set to go. And the day or two after the audit is given to the city council. Mr. Vail is ready to go to market. We've got our paperwork done we're just waiting for to file it.

**ALD O'BRIEN:** Thank you Mayor. We also had extensive conversation about the wish list at the last budget meeting last Monday. And there was a considerable or some concern expressed

regarding whether that amount of the 10.5 million of new money, I should say, unanimous support for refinancing that is obviously a great opportunity to save almost a million dollars. The concern about the new money is that whether that amount is too much whether we can afford it. So, that's part of my concern is particularly, you know things like paying for planning functions out of that I really think of that as operations. The \$200,000 per award for infrastructure, I think there was some concern of that we'd rather see the MFT money stretch to address those things rather than rather than to do this and we're going to do it let's do it in a big way not just sort of a band aid approach here for the 200,000. So, I think there's some concern about whether that 10.5 of the new money is the right number. Also, you know I should know unanimous support for Ricky Rockets and there's their project and how we might be able to support that with capital. Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you, Brian. Any other discussion? We have a motion in a second.

**ALD CURTIS:** Mayor...Mayor?

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Yes. You have the floor Alderman Curtis.

**ALD CURTIS:** Thank you. Sorry about that feel like I, I would like to concur with Alderman O'Brien. I think the refinancing is an excellent opportunity. I definitely want to make sure that we keep going forward. Ricky Rockets, that is a huge thing for the city and we need to have that done. I guess my biggest thing is, are we going to be borrowing for capital funding after 10.5 million or will be closer to \$6 million. I have no problem with making sure we have that 3.1 for Ricky Rockets and another potential two and a half to 3 million for other things that are needed within the city. I'm concerned that would we be borrowing 8, 9, 10.5 million dollars, right now.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** The authorization for it was for up to 10.5, not to exceed 10.5.

**ALD CURTIS:** Would there be an agreement with the council that not to exceed 6 million?

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion on the floor is for what's on the agenda, and we have given seven meetings to discuss this. So, Roll Call.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Cobbs, Lewis, Swanson, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
**NAYS:** Curtis (*via phone*), Tall (*absolutely not*), Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien  
(8) Ayes (6) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving on to Item 13B.

**ITEM 13B:** At the July 20 2020 Council Meeting the City Adopted Ordinance NO. 2020-76. Motion to approve city of Kankakee Taxable Sewer Refunding Revenue Bonds in an Amount Not To Exceed \$1,750,000 and Sewer Refund Bonds in an Amount Not To Exceed \$4,250,000, Which Includes up to \$1,100,000 in Sewer Project Bonds, the Sewer Project Bonds.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to approve?

**ALD TETTER:** I so move.

**ALD BROWN:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Tetter and Seconded by Alderman Brown. Any discussion? Alderman O'Brien?

**ALD O'BRIEN:** Question, we approved these amounts back in July, why are we approving them again?

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** It was just because we had told you all we will give you time to look at the list. And we wanted to just bring it back, because we say we could give you time to look at the list and give us an alternate. So, we're just confirming.

**ALD O'BRIEN:** Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Roll Call

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving onto Item 13C.

**ITEM 13C:** Re-Proclamation of Declaration of Local State of Emergency.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** You have to do this twice a month. State of Illinois cities remain in phase four. Please again give me any feedback regarding the Mask Ordinance. Moving on to Item 13D and Item 13E.

**ITEM 13D:** Resolution Approving an Agreement Regarding the Purchase of 240 East River Street, Kankakee Illinois.

**ITEM 13E:** Resolution Approving an Agreement Regarding the Purchase of 242 East River Street, Kankakee, Illinois.

**NEIL PIGGUSH:** This is the purchase of the two Brant properties that are just east of Schuyler Avenue on the south side of River Street, next to the high rise. This was these acquisitions are paid for out of an OSLO grant that the city was awarded and in 2019. We've been working through the environmental clearance process through the state as well as the appraisal process to the state which has been slowed as a result of COVID. So, we were finally able to get the appraisals approved. And we've negotiated these offers with the Brants, so everyone kind of played a hand in this between Mike, Elizabeth, the Mayor and Barbie. So it's kind of definitely been a team effort on this one.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** If there's no objections I like to combine Items 13D and 13E. May I have a motion to approve?

**ALD GALL:** I so move.

**ALD LEWIS:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderwoman Gall and Seconded by Alderwoman Lewis. Any discussion on these items? Alderman Tall?

**ALD TALL:** My first question is, we're taking these two properties off the tax rolls, right?

**NEIL PIGGUSH:** Yeah, I mean once the city owns them, they won't be paying themselves, taxes. So, yes.

**ALD TALL:** The second question would be, every time that we take property off of the tax rolls, it means that the residents who own property in the city of Kankakee have to pay more taxes. One of the questions that Alderman O'Brien raised

earlier was our property taxes. So every time that a property comes off the rolls. It means the rest of the residents have to pick up that share. I'm totally against us continuing to take properties off of the tax rolls.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you Alderman Tall. One of these is a parking lot. Correct?

**NEIL PIGGUSH:** One of these is a vacant lot, which is about six tenths of an acre. The other one is that gray house next to it, which you know is not been kept up the best. So I think the goal is to create value down the road, by creating a space on the river that the public can enjoy, and everyone can have access to so I know I think that's kind of the lens we're looking at it through with, with acquiring these properties is creating the value.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Absolutely. Okay, Roll Call.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
**NAYS:** Tall  
(13) Ayes (1) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Moving onto Item 13F.

**ITEM 13F:** Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Redevelopment Agreement with Kankakee Gas & Wash, LLC.

**BARBIE BREWER-WATSON:** So, this is the agreement that we talked about back in April and May, both at the Community Development Committee and the Economic Development Committee. I took all of your notes, all of your feedback, worked with the business owner, took a couple of months but this is the agreement that is being presented to you tonight, and if you have any further questions. I think we did everything that we could do to bring forward something that works for both parties.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** May I have a motion to approve the resolution?

**ALD SWANSON:** I'll make that motion.

**ALD LEWIS:** Second.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion made by Alderwoman Swanson and Seconded by

Aldерwoman Lewis. Any discussion on this item or questions for Barbie? Alderman Osenga?

**ALD OSENGA:**

When we bought that house on Washington Avenue, What did we pay for it?

**BARBIE BREWER-WATSON:**

We paid 130 for that, and that also included the relocation of the residents that live there.

**ALD OSENGA:**

And we are selling it for 65,000.00

**BARBIE BREWER-WATSON:**

Yes. And if you remember on May 11 we had that conversation that was kind of the number that everybody was okay with. And again, I think in that agreement that you read closely Alderman Osenga. That's the money that they will pay for the house, if there is no agreement to sell the building I think if you look in there a little bit closer.

**ALD OSENGA:**

Thank you.

**BARBIE BREWER-WATSON:**

You're welcome.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Any other questions or discussion? Alderman O'Brien?

**ALD O'BRIEN:**

Yes. Regarding the sales contract that's attached. Some of the exhibits that are referred to there were not included, but I don't know if that was by design, or not it's exhibit C and exhibit E, the sales contract in the form of the ordinances that would vacate the rights of way.

**NEIL PIGGUSH:**

I guess I'm not quite sure what exhibit you're referring to we've presented plats of easement and vacation of right away. That would be recorded upon the execution of Mr. Bain, and the potential developer for the (*inaudible*) building, so those won't be executed until that contract is agreed upon. If I'm not sure I don't have the agreement in front of me.

**ALD O'BRIEN:**

That's what I wanted to know. Thank you.

**BARBI BREWER-WATSON:**

Yeah, there's gonna be more to this. This the first part, and then we're gonna come back when there is a signed agreement, because we're gonna have to do the vacation of those properties just so you'll have all those plots back in front of you again. If you remember back in May. All the

blue the green and the orange and the plots that we were looking at.

**ALD O'BRIEN:** Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Any other questions. Roll Call.

**CLERK DUMAS:** **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis (*via phone*), Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude  
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motion carries. Thank you Barbie. Item 14 we have no need for Executive Session. Item 15 Action resulting for Executive Session, nothing there. Item 16 City Council comments.

#### **ALDERMEN AND ALDERWOMEN COMMENTS**

**ALD LEWIS:** I would like to thank the city staff DPW and ESU did an excellent job, outstanding, actually clearing up the streets and everything after the storm. I want to give a special thank you to Pete. He went home and got, to his saw to help two of my elderly residents in their 70s and 80s unblocked the front door. So, I want to thank you, they really put a smile on a face we appreciate you going above and beyond.

**ALD OSENGA:** I wasn't able to go out to the east side where we're talking about the new signage out there. When we originally talked about this city council, my memory serves me right that sign was supposed to cost about, \$90,000, and it was gonna come from the Eastside Business District, they're going to pay for that. It was an article in the paper on Sunday and it said the cost of that sign is going to be around \$200,000. Can somebody explained that to me, so I understand it a little better. It was in the paper.

**MIKE HOFFMAN:** The sign, absolutely will not cost \$200,000 but well we have to do is remove some pavement from the existing roadway reconstruct it and provide the emergency access, plus the sign, plus the landscaping, all that together, potentially could be up to \$200,000 depending on how the bids come back.

**ALD OSENGA:**

Okay, thank you. Secondly, I've talked about this before and I'm going to talk about it again. I am getting so many calls about these little motorcycles in these four-wheel drive ATVs running around town, it's out of control. I was in a meeting downtown the other night, and I saw three motorcycles and a four-wheel drive ATV shoot down the sidewalk at Schuyler in Court Street probably 30 miles an hour. If somebody would have walked out of a building it's a good chance they would have gotten hurt badly. People have gotten calls from people Riverview, Station Street, Riding down Curtis Avenue (*inaudible*). A buddy of mine was at the Dairy Queen the other night sitting there with his family and they came down there, it had to be 15 of them going down Station Street. It's terrible. They could get killed or kill somebody else. Something has got to be done. Chief I don't know what the answer is but I think we need to put together some kind of approach, that's all I am getting calls on anymore. Something has to be done before somebody gets killed.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Do you have some recommendations Alderman Osenga that you could share? Do you have some recommendations that you'd be willing to share with Chief.

**ALD OSENGA:**

I gladly sit down and talk. He may not like what I have to say but I will gladly sit down and talk. Something has to be done they are out of control.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** It's about finding a solution. I have never seen 15 but I have seen them. When you see them are you notifying the police, when you see them?

**ALD OSENGA:**

I seen them several times.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** But are you notifying the police, do you see them.?

**ALD OSENGA:**

No.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Okay. All right,

**ALD OSENGA:**

Well I guess we'll get to the first time. They are not going to chase them. Somethings has got to be done.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you Alderman Osgena. Alderman Tetter?

**ALD TETTER:**

First I want to commend this Administration for its efforts



to present a balanced budget, and the residents of the city of Kankakee. Special thanks to our professional outstanding Comptroller for your patience and incredible detailed work to present us this budget. I also would like to make mention that this is the first time that I am aware of while being on the city council that we have awarded a contract to a minority owned and operated business that's local and I think we're moving in the right direction. That's very encouraging amongst us body. I would also like to thank the ESU department for the efforts in removing the trees with these power lines, powers out, trees down, it was just terrible. And you guys did an incredible job and I don't think we had any fatalities as it relates to the damage of the storms. And lastly, and I really want to thank the chief of police and the police officers in the city of Kankakee, the professionalism that was shown. They were at the ready to ensure that safety was of paramount. And I just want to say thank you to our police departments can please pass that on to them. Thank you.

**ALD O'BRIEN:**

Yes, we have a special meeting of the budget committee, a week from tonight at 5:30 P.M. here to consider the final version of the audit from last year.

**ALD CRAWFORD:**

Yes, I'd also like to pretty much make same comments Mr. Osenga did about the four wheelers ATVs and motorcycles definitely something needs to be done. And then also, to think Public Works, Bert Dear and Dennis Doyle for the fantastic job in overtime. All of them, put out the clear our streets, I mean they were working overtime on the weekend, Saturday and Sunday. Thank you

**ALD PRUDE:**

Yes, I again want to thank DPW for the fine work that they have done with trees and all that as well. Also, like to offer to the Council again as we did last year. First Ward is having a Back to School Bash. If you guys like to participate or help out in any type of way. We have it out on September 12th. We are giving school supplies out as we did last year. So, if you guys want to be a part of it, we want to make sure we open it up to any City Council Member that would like to be a part of that. Thank you

**ALD BROWN:**

I have no comments, but I would like to think, Public Works, and you know I'm gonna give a shout out to Com Ed because if you road through this city, and you look at all the damage. How many trees were down, how many

houses were barely missed, and we got we got on them pretty good because I was texting them every night every day, sometimes two or three times a day, trying to find updates, and I know they didn't answer the phone because they didn't want all the complaints. But, but they kept the lights on. Five days is a long time. I've never had my lights out five days. I had to throw out some food, and some other people had to throw out food also, but we had no fatalities, people of (*inaudible*) COVID environment, I still think they did like to see him do a job but I think they did okay with, with the devastation because somebody said that was not a hurricane and boy I would hate to think, if there had been a hurricane what would happen. So, I just like to shout, shout out to all the utilities for their outstanding work.

**ALD COBBS:**

I'd like to echo the sentiments and compliments to ESU, the fire department as well as Com Ed. As I got home, I think the storm hit about four. I'll also like to thank the residents in my neighborhood and all the residents within the city of Kankakee. I saw them out there with axes in their private chainsaws and all cleaning up the streets, making it possible so for some residents to get home. So, it's just it's just shows the strength of Kankakee, and I'm proud to be a resident. Thank you.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Okay, I got all those council members. Moving on to Department Heads Item 17.

**CHIEF KOSMAN:**

Thank you Mayor. I'd first like to express my condolences to the family and friends of the two men who tragically lost their lives last weekend. The 400 Block of West Bourbonnais. I do want to recognize or point out to the council that fine work that Investigation Division did over the weekend since when the stolen truck was found on Friday morning, that detectives worked endlessly until they were able to catch and then also interview and bring charges to both the subjects that were involved in it on a Sunday night, especially the Detective Lombardi, Detective Manfordini, Agent Johnson, who's in the Tri County Task Force was in Milwaukee, Waukegan, and Rockford working on the case with that task force. It was with the resources that we have from the task force we're having an officer assigned to the task force. Sergeant Hunter and

Commander Etzel who supervised the whole operation actually even ran into the river after the prime suspect on Sunday morning. So, he came they were working on weekends so they all worked very hard in to bring the subjects to justice. The motorcycles, I understand it is a problem. Today, I saw three from my office and I tried to follow them they go see where they went and I lost them so I was unable to, to see them, but we do talk to command staff. We'll have it again in our staff meeting this week, we've already talked because on Friday, there was two motorcycle, the motor bike accidents within like two-hour period and Friday afternoon. So, there was minor injuries, thankfully, but they are a hazard on the streets. They don't have lights, they're not a registered and most of time they're driven by 14-year olds, 15-year olds that don't have licenses and don't follow the rules of the road. So, it is an issue that we do. I mean our latest talking in reference to somehow, we try to make it so that the parents are responsible because I don't think these, you know 14-year olds are buying the bikes, and if you are a parent that does but buy a bike for them. I would urge you to make sure that they drive lawfully on private property, and with some adult supervision and with some care because they are a danger to the general public. Thank you.

**NEIL PIGGUSH:**

Just a couple of updates on projects that are kind of in process right now. MFT street maintenance, you should start seeing activity starting next week on the annual street maintenance program. Kankakee Valley Construction we'll be doing that. Our hope is it'll take three to four weeks, maybe less but we'll see depend on whether. The East Ridge drive project that we're currently under design, the road for the Ricky Rockets project. Our goal is to have the bid opening for that on September 17 and award at the September 21 meeting we've been in contact with them frequently over the past month or so. The East court signage project will be going up to bid today and the bid opening is scheduled for September 1 that'll be on the September, 8 meeting. Still waiting to hear back on the fast track grant for South Schuyler, or I'm sorry for the North Schuyler Streetscape project the South Schuyler project we're having our IDOT coordination meeting. And looking at potential funding options for that project, we feel like we have a couple of good grant programs that would that project would qualify for, as well as Riverfront trail phase three a we're having a coordination meeting with IDOT this

week on that, and Hobbie Avenue and Brookmont Boulevard are both still moving forward in engineering. The alley project in the fourth Ward, we are still waiting for Nicor to get their permit to lower that gas main there as soon as that happens we'll be out there and finish that project. That's all I have.

**BARBIE BREWER-WATSON:** All right, thank you. Okay so census correct 55.3%. We basically, are going up in the right direction but just not fast enough. So, we just let you know there's over ten 15 foot banners across the city and most of them are in the wards that are not reporting the counts that we want to see. We got another round of billboards going out for the next month, so all the billboards in the city, you should be able to see those. There are some yard signs I know some of you are taking them please take more hand them out to your constituents, especially if you know they've taken the census they can put that in their yard and hopefully the neighbors will see that. We've also been doing some of the community events, we were with a Census Rep out at the Still I Rise event we were able to get some counting done that day. We've been at some other events partnering with the police department yesterday on their event. So, we've been working really diligently on this, trying to talk about it as much as we can. Radio all this great stuff. We have another round of events that are coming up between now until the end of September 30, you do not need to take these notes, you will get an email this week about this but starting from the last week of August. We're working with the school district they've been a great partner with us to work with so we'll be doing some things with them at Steuben in September and September 10 we will be at the Kankakee High School (*inaudible*). We're going to partner with St Roses Church on September 12. We're also going to be out with the Census Bureau at the Community Unity Event in Ward 1 later on September 12. Friday, September 18 will be Ward 3 at Kennedy School. Tuesday, September 22, we'll be back at Edison, so we we've got a lot of these senses pop up events that we've got Census Bureau people with us that will be at these events, doing direct assistance. We've also in ECDA been a good partner out at Hopkins Park, Pembroke, giving them some resources and helping them with the census as well. So, we just I want people to know we're trying to be good partners to our neighbors as well. We have a confirmed location to partner with St Patrick's Church, we just are picking a date

so we're just trying to get that date. And then of course we're going to try to keep working with the hospitals for the mobile food pantry days, and put them in connection with the Census Bureau as well so that the census can get them, get people counted those mobile food pantries, and then it just an extra event we're going to partner with the school district yet again on their September 5 event out at Old Fair Park back in Ward 1 again, just supporting them in their events with the families but also connecting our Census Bureau Reps to help provide direct assistance at that event. We'll be there as ECDA, giving away free things and utilizing all the census grant money that we have been given to help provide awareness to why the census is so important. So, we are working as hard as we can on just this one thing. This one really important event that the ECDA is working on so I can we connect afterwards because I don't want to. Okay, so I just want to let everybody know census stuff will get you this email, and we're trying to get into every word at least a couple times between now and September 30. So, let's hope that we can remain in phase four. That would be great. Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Chief Schuldt, I think you've had an item for the budget committee meeting on the 24th so people make sure you touch base with Alderman O'Brien, regarding that, that'd be quick for the agenda goes out.

**JAMES ELLEXSON:** I just wanted to remind you, I sent out an email last week on new pay dates because we did go live with our payroll system. If you have any questions feel free to give me a call about that. The other thing is tomorrow you're going to see a flyer we are doing an Employee Appreciation Day, and Thursday. The whole city has worked really hard the last couple months, and then of course DPW this last week has really been busting their rump, to clean up the city so we are giving some appreciation ice cream. There are going to be different locations throughout the city we are going to try to hit all the city locations and the times are on there. If any of you can make it please feel free to come in personally inviting you to come to those, you'll see the different times. Again, if you have any questions coming up. Thank you.

**MIKE HOFFMAN:** Thank you Mayor, just a reminder we have got a Planning Board meeting tomorrow night. A couple public hearings scheduled one for a major home occupation for skincare

business, and the proposed shelter for fortitude. We got the main items for that agenda. We had a continued in case for a proposed auto repair facility on Hobbie Avenue, that one's gonna, more than likely be continued their applicants requesting a little bit more time to work on that case. So, if anyone was planning on coming for that one. It'll probably continue.

**JASMYNE HUMBLE:**

Thank you Mayor, I just want to remind everyone that the Kankakee police department is presenting Light Up the Night. There are flyers on the back table we've been posting this blood on our social media and website, but our police department, I believe this is their third or fourth year doing this event but this year, they are doing it at night so pretty exciting. The bike ride is August 23, that is a Sunday at 7:30pm at Beckman Park, you can sign up on our website so I just wanted to remind everyone about that. Also, for KDC there are two more Friday Night Music night series. I hope people are enjoying the promotional videos I've been doing. So, that is the 21st and the 28th and that will be it for the end of the year. Those take place downtown Kankakee it's a free outdoor concert. It's been a pleasure working with KDC on their promotional and marketing. Thank you.

**BURT ODELSON:**

Just a quick update on the LaBeau property. We have received the environmental study that came out very well we were a little afraid of this asbestos but it came out. So, so we are able to move forward as the environmental study, we have the phase one back, that was efficient also, and the phase two the preliminary is in, and that's also but we're still waiting for some of the chemical analysis from the soil borings, and it's going to be another week and a half. If that comes back like we expect it to come back and we should be able to close on the property sometime right after Labor Day. Pete's been all over this and he's ready to go. As soon as we get clearances there's nothing wrong with the property and close. His folks will be ready to go to move in to get adapt adaptable for city use.

**ALD CRAWFORD:**

How are we doing on the, the change in ESU over to that building are we still looking at possibly getting out of that contract?

**BURT ODELSON:**

Maybe Pete...

**PETE SCHIEL:** I think we just need to resolve this first (*inaudible*).

**ALD CRAWFORD:** Thank you.

**BURT ODELSON:** Yeah. It's not out of my sight, and we need to get this done. And then we need Pete to get his stuff going so we know when we can get into that building. You know, for the city. Then we'll have a focus on what to do with the second part, but that's not that's still within our sight. Thank you.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Sergeant Latham. Can you step in just quickly. As you all know, Sergeant Raimondo retired July 31. No one can replace Sergeant Raimondo however, Sergeant Brett Latham is here to tend to our city council meetings and I just want to make sure everybody knew him. I think it's really important that we connect with our police department as much as possible so everybody that's Sergeant Latham. Thank you. Always a friendly face. I did want to let you know I receive a call today from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity regarding our Fast Track grant we are playing phone tag right now. The representatives spoke with Neil I think last week. Last week to have some final questions answered. So, I'm keeping my fingers crossed that she's calling to tell me good news and I'll keep you updated on that. So, I'll follow up with her tomorrow. East Court Gateway Signage, the meeting was held on yesterday at 2:00 P.M., I really want to thank Alderman Brown and Alderman Tetter for your leadership on this project. We've been working on this together for a couple years. And I notice Council has been in full support of making sure that our entryway our gateway to the city of Kankakee looks good, and is aesthetic and welcoming. So, I just want to thank ECDA Barbie and her team Rachel was there of course Mike Hoffman who drove down to be there, and our residents in the 7th Ward it's going to be a beautiful project, also the city life for allowing us to use the space, which is Pastor Aaron Clark. Fortitude community outreach on my cough minority advice is going to be a hearing on that so we had a meeting on Friday, with several stakeholders from downtown both Alderwoman Gall and Aldermen O'Brien attended, thank you and some of the city employees as well. So, this is, the issue of having the homeless shelter in the St. Paul school downtown. So, any concerns I just ask that you communicate as we work through this next issue. ComEd, our liaison is a rock star. As far as I'm concerned,



she's great, she's been in communication with both Pete and me. Since the derecho storm. So, we really appreciate her communication with us DPW has been outstanding. I'd like to do something special for them. And I've talked to, I think it was David (*inaudible*) on Sunday. I think he said he wanted me to make sure that I let the community know that they appreciate the way that the community has responded to the department that a lot of people have been helpful, making sure they have water when they see him out. One of the employees I can't remember his name, forgive me, ended up taking three cats that you know we're kind of abandoned in the storm he doesn't even like cats. But, you know, everybody's just been really pulling together and the DPW employees wanted me to make sure that you all knew that they were appreciative of you all as well but they have done an outstanding job. I just want to thank them publicly and we probably will put something out Jasmyne to make sure that we acknowledge them. And Mike Penski he called me today he is the President, I believe, of the Country Club and he wanted to let me know of course the Country Club is in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward, a lot of trees are lost over the country club I think he told me about 100. And so, he said they were getting a lot of concerns and calls but he wanted us to know that they are on it, they have a plan in place, it's probably going to take about the next seven to 10 days to get everything clear but they are working on it and they have a plan in place. So that's update on the storm. Let me see if I have anything else. Oh, Phenomenal Woman Award Ceremony because of the storm the power outage at the library, we had to reschedule that to Thursday, August 20 so that'd be this week at 6:30pm, even though we have crowd restrictions, we will publicize it we were able to stream, the ceremony for the kids who receive scholarships. I believe we're planning the similar approach with this one. And then census, Barbie already covered that our plans to have to get out into the neighborhood, just ask that you all keep encouraging everyone to fill out the census, that's all that I have, I want to thank everybody for coming tonight. May I have a motion to adjourn?

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**ALD BROWN:**

So move Mayor.

**ALD MALONE MARSHALL:**

Second.



**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Motioned by Alderman Brown Seconded by  
Alderwoman Malone Marshall. All in favor aye?

**COUNCIL:** Aye.

**MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG:** Opposed same sign. We are adjourned.